

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Application No.: 09/904,558

Atty Docket No.: Q61341

REMARKS

The Office Action of November 18, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered.

Claims 1 to 10 are all the claims pending in the application, prior to the present amendment.

The Office Action Summary and page 4 of the Office Action indicate that claims 2 to 9 have been allowed. Although the Office Action Summary does not indicate that claim 10 is allowable, and the Examiner refers to claims 2 to 9 at page 4 of the Office Action, applicants point out that the Examiner refers to claim 10 at page 5, line 5 and page 6, line 8 of the Office Action, where she is providing reasons why she believes the claims are allowable. In addition, at page 6, last two lines, the Examiner states that “Kitayama et al do not disclose or suggest the invention of present claims 2-10”. Further, claim 10 has not been rejected in the Office Action.

In view of the above, applicants believe that the Examiner considers claim 10 to also be allowable, and that the Office Action Summary and page 4 contain a typing error in not referring to claim 10. Applicants request the Examiner to confirm that claim 10 is allowable.

Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by Kitayama et al.

In response, applicants have cancelled claim 1, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the cancellation of claim 1, applicants have amended claims 5 to 9 to delete reference to claim 1 and to correct improper multiple dependencies. In addition, applicants have added new claims 11 and 12 which depend from allowed claim 4.

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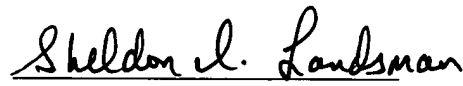
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Thus, the only claims that remain are claims 2 to 9 that the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, new claims 11 and 12 that depend from allowed claim 4, and claim 10 which applicants believe was intended to be allowed by the Examiner.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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